

REMARKS

Claims 43, 47, 48, 50, 54, 55, 57, 61, 62, 64-81 and 95-97 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 43, 50 and 57 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated November 29, 2005.

Allowable Claim Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 47, 48, 54, 55, 61, 62, 64-81 and 95-97 have been allowed. As stated above, claims 43, 50 and 57 have been canceled, therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining pending claims 47, 48, 54, 55, 61, 62, 64-81 and 95-97 are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attorney Docket No.: 990191B
Serial No.: 09/994,829

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEB', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

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